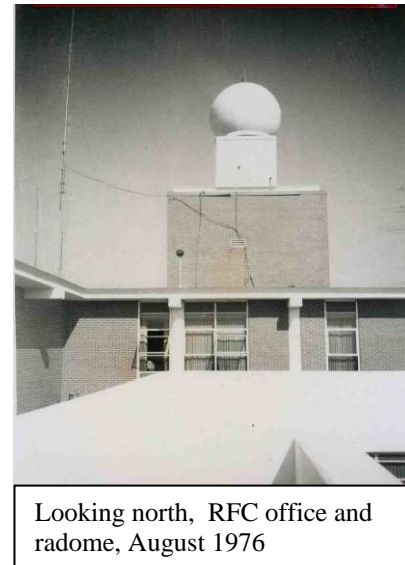


Southeast RFC (originally known as the Augusta RFC and then the Atlanta RFC)

The original office was established in October 1955 and was collocated with the WBAS at the August, GA city airport. It remained in Augusta till 1967 when the office was relocated to Atlanta, GA and eventually was collocated with the WSFO. As part of MAR in 1994 both offices moved to Peachtree City, GA.

Bob Ellis often told the story of the installation of the RFC's first air conditioner. The air conditioner arrived at the RFC in Augusta pleasing the staff, immensely. However, no arrangements had been made for its installation and the RFC had no tools. Needless to say, the staff was anxious to have the benefit of the air conditioner during those hot summer days in Augusta. The office was collocated with the WSO on the airport property. It just so happened that President Eisenhower was in Augusta, playing golf at the Augusta National Golf Course. Someone, not sure who, noticed that the crew chief of the President's plane was lounging in the shade of the great aircraft. Someone, again not sure who, from the RFC gathered up enough nerve to go out and ask the crew chief to borrow tools to install the air conditioner. Well it turns out that the fellow loaned the RFC a box full of tools and the air conditioner was installed that day.



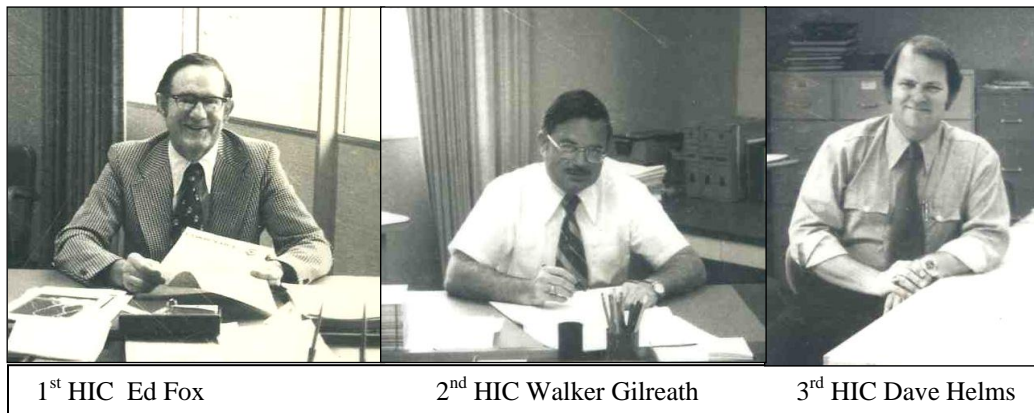
Looking north, RFC office and radome, August 1976

The original staff consisted of a HIC, Ed Fox; a PA, Richard Greening; two hydrologists, Bob Ellis and William Hammond; and a secretary, Eureka G. Jackson, what is remembered about her is that she was a redhead. Ed Fox and Bob Ellis were the first to report to the new office; the others came over the next several weeks.

During the first month back in October 1955, in the November monthly report, Ed Fox states "Of necessity, the biggest portion of available time was devoted to housekeeping duties associated with the opening of the RFC. Considerable time was spent in uncrating and setting up furniture, ordering of forms and office supplies, arranging telephone service, setting up a filing system in conformance with the Weather Bureau Manual and many other details too numerous to mention. A factory representative from the Recorak Corporation set up the microfilm reader and explained its use. A representative of Ditto, Incorporated called and explained the use of the Ditto duplicating machine. A number of prospective candidates were interviewed for the secretarial position and it is

hoped that this position can be filled in the near future.”

William E. “Ed” Fox, 1st HIC (1955-1980), was selected, "Government Engineer of the Year in Georgia" one year in the mid '70s. After the plaque was presented to Ed. he was asked to say a few words. Ed complied with the request and, looking at the plaque, said; "I don't deserve this, but I have sinus trouble and I don't deserve that either, so I accent!"



J. Walker Gilreath was the 2nd HIC for approximately two years (1981-1982) but at his request he went back to being a senior Hydrologist on the staff.

Charles David "Dave" Helms, 3rd HIC (1982-1997), began his hydrometeorological career in 1952 when he entered the U. S. Air Force Weather School at Chanute Air Force Base, IL. He served in Kimpo, Korea. during the last months of the Korean War and for a period of time afterward. He later served in the Weather Squadron (Mobile) as a member of the "Tornado Alley Project." Dave tried his hand at a number of occupations for a while following his discharge from the Air Force in 1956. He entered the U. S. Weather Bureau at WBAS, Fort Worth, in February, 1962. He attended the University of Texas at Arlington while stationed in Fort Worth, receiving his BS in Geology in 1969. Dave's next stop was at the River Forecast Center in Atlanta where he served as a hydrologist. While in Atlanta, Dave earned his MS in Geophysical Sciences at Georgia Tech in 1976. In 1978 Dave moved to the Lower Mississippi River Forecast Center where he became Deputy Hydrologist In Charge in 1979. He retraced his steps to Atlanta in May, 1982, to become Hydrologist -In- Charge at the Southeast River Forecast Center, until his retirement on March 29, 1997. Dave was commended a number of times in his career, sharing in a Department of Commerce Silver Medal that was presented to the SERFC for its performance during the devastating flooding associated with Tropical Storm Alberto in July, 1994. Dave was presented the Max A. Kohler Award in 1995, and received numerous commendable and

outstanding performance ratings, as well as other expressions of commendation. He was an active advocate of the NWS hydrology program, speaking to various groups in the U. S. and abroad.

Ed Fox and **Bobbelise Brake** were very fast walkers. In fact, Ed was reputed to have missed his bus at one bus stop and beat it to the next stop...on foot! Bobbelise was reputed to have chased fire truck down Peachtree Street to a fire.

Bobbelise Brake was walking from the bus stop one dark, winter morning on her way to work, when she noticed that a rather shabby looking fellow was apparently following her. Never one to be timid, she whirled around and ran straight at the man. Scared the fellow so bad that he turned and ran completely out of sight.

Walker Gilreath and **Winston Hurst** were working the weekend shift one Saturday in the early 70's when the RFC was located in the sub-basement of the Peachtree-Baker Federal Building. Walker stepped out of the door into the corridor to get a drink of water at the fountain on the opposite wall. Just as he finished drinking, an elderly man walked briskly up to him and asked, "Where's Herman's office?" Walker was caught completely off guard and didn't realize that the man was referring to Senator Herman Talmadge. Walker responded, "Herman who?" The old fellow became outraged that this bureaucrat didn't know Georgia's famous Senator and began kicking and beating on Walker. Fortunately, Winston saw the exchange and rushed out to intervene in the fracas before anyone was injured.

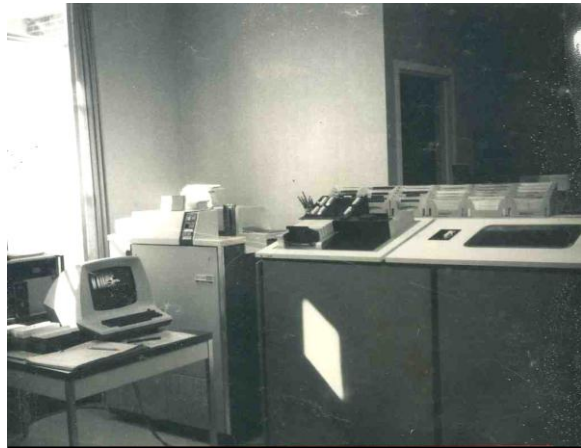


Winston Hurst

Bob Ellis recalls Jack (Vochatzer) as the most gung-ho river forecaster on the station. And besides being a champion tennis player he was a great singer of country music. His parodies of country songs were something else. Jack played tennis with everyone and was the best tennis player in the Weather Bureau, well maybe not the entire Weather Bureau, but the best among the River Centers! He also recalls how Jack's singing and whistling used to drive Ed Fox crazy.

Before the advent of the computer age, river forecasts issued by the RFC were prepared by hand with procedures utilizing maps, graphs, tables, charts, etc.. Computer programming was begun in the mid-1960s to produce software that would reduce the labor intensive work involved in managing the soil moisture accounting system that was being used in the RFC. When the office moved to Atlanta in 1967, an in-house IBM 1130 (16K) computer was obtained, and over the next few years the preparation of forecasts gradually became computerized. In 1975, the RFC was linked to the IBM 36/195 systems of the NOAA Central Computer Facility I

Suitland, MD, and preliminary calibration work was begun on the National Weather



Computer Room, August 1976

Service River Forecast System (NWSRFS). In late 1982, a total commitment was made to adopt the more sophisticated NWSRFS as the RFC's primary hydrologic model, and in 1986 the changeover was completed, leaving the old model behind. Later, the IBM 360s were replaced by NAS 9000s where the NWRFS resided until December 1996. In the summer 1996, fast high capacity computer system was placed in the RFC and within a few months, all operational products were being generated "in-house" again. Although the forecasts

calculated by computer, they still require thorough analysis by professional hydrologists for possible adjustment. In sufficient data and/or imperfections in the hydrologic model often require revisions of the computer forecast.



Brad Gimmetstad, DOH, in the ops area briefing visitors, January 2006.



Top Row, left to right: Terry Gerald, Dr. Ed Johnson, Ernest L. Smith, and Jerry Curnutt
 Middle Row, left to right: Len Mazarowski, Duane Moyer, Bruce Rand, Judi Bradberry, and Nene Robinson
 Bottom Row, left to right: David Dingle, Brad Gimmestad, and Dean Braatz